

Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Towns County Library – Hiawassee, GA

Meeting was called to order by Chair Patricia Allen at 10:05 a.m. Present: Board Members Patricia Allen (U), Stacy Head (U), Shirley Miller (T), Judy Slaton (T), Carol Crawford (F), Kathleen Tickner (F), John Thompson (F), Nick Wimberley (F); MRLS Staff Heath Lee, Susan Shook.

Absent: Kaye McCann (U), Dionne Berrong (T).

No additions to agenda. Motion to adopt agenda by Tickner; seconded by Miller; none opposed.

Motion was made by Crawford to adopt minutes of January 26, 2022 Board Meeting; seconded by Slaton; none opposed.

Motion was made by Thompson to adopt minutes of March 9, 2022 Called Board Meeting; seconded by Miller; none opposed.

Public Comments: Several members of the public were in attendance, and demanded to speak in objection to a vote taken at the April 19, 2022 Towns County Library Board meeting, however, none had previously requested to be placed on the agenda.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session. After discussion of the topics in Executive Session, the Board resumed open meeting.

Chair Patricia Allen entertained a motion from Board. Motion was made by Thompson to increase Director Lee's salary for FY23 by 3%: the state reimbursed salary will be \$86,473, the local salary will be \$3,345, state reimbursed benefits will be \$34,008, and local benefits will be \$924; for a total salary and benefits of \$124,750; motion was seconded by Tickner; all in favor, none opposed.

Old Business: At this meeting, there was no old business to be discussed.

New Business:

Director Lee reviewed with the Board the recommended FY23 MRLS Regional Trustee Meeting dates and locations, which are:

1. July 27, 2022 @ Mountain Regional Library @ 10:00 am;
2. October 26, 2022 @ Union County Public Library @ 10:00 am;
3. January 25, 2023 @ Fannin County TBD @ 10:00 am;
4. May 17, 2023 @ Towns County Public Library @ 10:00 am.

Motion was made by Miller to accept the recommended dates for FY23; seconded by Head; none opposed.

Mr. Lee discussed briefly the FY23-FY25 MRLS Strategic Plan which had been reviewed by each of the local library boards. Motion was made by Crawford to adopt the FY23-FY25 MRLS Strategic Plan; seconded by Slaton; none opposed.

There was discussion of the proposed building location for the new Fannin County Public Library. Motion was made by Wimberley to table the approval of the proposed location, until the pending agreement could be reviewed; seconded by Miller; none opposed.

Motion was made by Crawford to table the recommendation that would allow Fannin County Public Library Board of Trustees to act as the primary decision-making Board with regards to construction of the new Fannin County Public Library facility; seconded by Tickner; none opposed.

Motion was made by Slaton to approve the Director's signatory authority for FY2023, for all contracts and other documents; seconded by Thompson; none opposed.

Mr. Lee reviewed with the Board the FY23 MRLS Operating Budget, its revenue and its expenditures. Motion was made by Wimberley to approve the FY23 MRLS Operating Budget, contingent on any pending salary increases for FY23; seconded by Crawford; none opposed.

Chairman's Report: No information to report.

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Chair Allen, on behalf of the Board, stated appreciation for Director Lee's leadership and the work he has done for the library system. Lee thanked the Board for their confidence and support.

Nominating Committee: Chair Allen reported that the Nominating Committee recommended Patricia Allen as Chair, and Kaye McCann as Vice-Chair for the Regional Board for FY23.

Library Director's Report:

Director Lee reported that individuals in Fannin County are working to create a foundation for fund-raising for the new Fannin County Library project. Also, MRR funding will be available for part of the expenses.

Lee stated that he had met with the Towns County Board of Education regarding the Play Cards for checking out library books and materials for school students; the Board of Ed. was receptive to the plan, and would meet soon to vote. If approved, the Play Cards would be in use by fall; Union and Fannin school officials were also interested in the Play Cards for their schools.

Director Lee reported that the Summer Reading Program for the libraries would begin in June and go through July, providing programs for children of all ages. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities", with ocean-themed decorations and programming.

Finance Report:

Director Lee reviewed with the Board the MRLS balance sheets for FY22, the revenue and expenses. The Board also reviewed the FY22 3rd Quarter Report. Lee answered questions from the Board.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Tickner to adjourn; seconded by Slaton; none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Chair, Patricia Allen